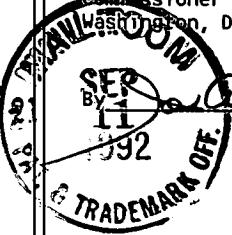


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PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 15422-70

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)
HIGUCHI et al.) Examiner: R. Prouty
Serial No.: 07/695,201) Art Unit: 1814
Filed: May 2, 1991) AMENDMENT
For: HOMOGENEOUS METHODS FOR)
NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION)
AND DETECTION)

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 10, 1992, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and a petition to extend the period of response for three months are enclosed.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims as below.

1. (Amended) A method for detecting a target nucleic acid in a sample, said method [comprises the steps of] comprising:

(a) providing [an] a DNA amplification reaction mixture that comprises said sample, a DNA binding agent, wherein said agent is characterized as providing a detectable signal when bound to double-stranded [nucleic acid] DNA which signal is greater than the amount of said distinguishable from the signal provided by said agent when it is unbound, and wherein said agent does not significantly inhibit the rate of nucleic acid amplification and reagents for amplification;

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